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Summary record of the 28th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 19 November 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Effah-Apenteng ..... (Ghana)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 120: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*)

Agenda item 121: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*)

Management of buildings (continued)

Private management consulting firms (continued)

Agenda item 122: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Visitors' experience (continued)

Development Account (continued)

Profitability of commercial activities (continued)

Information technology (continued)

Agenda item 126: Human resources management (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*)

Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 120: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.6)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.6

1. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.6, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors". Since consensus had been reached on the text in informal consultations, he hoped that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

2. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) proposed that, for the sake of clarity, a reference to footnote 1 of the draft resolution should appear not only at the end of paragraph 1, but also in paragraph 2 after the phrase "contained in its report".

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.6, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*)

Management of buildings (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.3)

Private management consulting firms (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.4)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/56/L.3 and A/C.5/56/L.4

4. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana) introduced draft resolutions A/C.5/56/L.3, entitled "Management of buildings: practices of selected United Nations system organizations relevant to the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters", and A/C.5/56/L.4, entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies and practices in the use of the services of private management consulting firms in the organizations of the United Nations system". Since consensus had been reached on both texts in informal consultations, he recommended that the Committee should adopt them without a vote.

5. *Draft resolutions A/C.5/56/L.3 and A/C.5/56/L.4 were adopted.*

Agenda item 122: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Visitors' experience (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.8)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8

6. **Mr. Fox** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8, entitled "Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors", whereby the General Assembly would welcome the in-kind donation valued at $50 to $60 million offered by the United Nations Association of the United States of America to provide new facilities for visitors. Since the text had been agreed upon in informal consultations, he hoped that the Committee would adopt it without a vote.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8 was adopted.*

Development Account (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.9)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9

8. **Mr. Chandra** (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9, entitled "Development Account". The delegations participating in the informal consultations had adopted the text by consensus, and he recommended that the Committee should do likewise.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9 was adopted.*

Profitability of commercial activities (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10

10. **Mr. Ivashchenko** (Ukraine) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10, entitled "Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations". He recommended that the Committee should adopt the text without a vote, since it had been agreed upon in informal consultations.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10 was adopted.*

Information technology (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.11)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11

12. **Mr. Orr** (Canada) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11, entitled "Information technology". The text before the Committee was the same as the one adopted by consensus in informal consultations, with the exception of some minor editorial changes in

paragraph 2. He hoped that the Committee would adopt it without a vote.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11 was adopted.*

Agenda item 126: Human resources management (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.12, A/C.5/56/L.13 and A/C.5/56/L.14)

Draft decisions A/C.5/56/L.12, A/C.5/56/L.13 and A/C.5/56/L.14

14. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) introduced draft decisions A/C.5/56/L.12, entitled "Use of consultants in the United Nations"; A/C.5/56/L.13, entitled "Delegation of authority"; and A/C.5/56/L.14, entitled "Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention". Since the delegations participating in the informal consultations had reached consensus on all three texts, he recommended that the Committee should adopt them without a vote.

15. *Draft decisions A/C.5/56/L.12, A/C.5/56/L.13 and A/C.5/56/L.14 were adopted.*

Agenda item 128: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.5)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5

16. **Ms. Dinić** (Croatia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit". Since the text had already been agreed upon in informal consultations, she hoped that the Committee would adopt it by consensus.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5 was adopted.*

Organization of work (A/C.5/56/1/Add.1)

18. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/56/1/Add.1) regarding the allocation of agenda item 169, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations", to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that any decision requiring amendment of the statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal or relating to the establishment of a higher-level jurisdiction would be subject to the advice of the Sixth Committee.

19. With respect to the request made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the Committee's 27th meeting, the Bureau of the Committee had decided to recommend that, during the period of Ramadan, the Committee should maintain its normal working hours for its morning meetings but should hold its afternoon meetings from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

20. **Mr. Tilemans** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, in principle, it was important to uphold the strict neutrality of the United Nations with respect to the different religions, cultures and governmental systems of its Members. However, he recognized that his Fifth Committee colleagues who fasted during Ramadan should not be penalized for fulfilling their religious obligations. Accordingly, in the interest of maintaining good and equitable working relations, he supported the Bureau's recommendation.

21. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee approved the Bureau's recommendation for the scheduling of afternoon meetings during Ramadan.

22. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.